Compressions

4335. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of compressions installed so far by OIL and ONGC with the installed capacity of each compression; and

(b) the number of compressions proposed to be installed with their locations in the next three years and the estimated gas expected to be collected by installation of these compressions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). ONGC and OIL have so far installed 251 compressors. 32 more compressors are proposed to be installed in the next three years with the capacity to compress around 17 MMSCMD of gas.

[Translation]

Kerala Electronics Development Corporation

4336. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to provide assistance to Kerala Electronics Development Corporation, to enable it to compete with multinational companies in the Indian Market; and

(b) the measures being taken to protect such industries, facing serious problems due to change in Government policies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir, No such proposal for consideration of the Department of Electronics has been received from Kerala Electronics Development Corporation.

(b) It is the responsibility of an individual industrial unit to remain competitive and profitable. However, the measures taken by the Government are given in the statement attached.

STATEMENT

(i) Policy initiatives lime exemption from locational limitations, abolition of licensing except for four specific items abolition of phased manufacturing programme and amendment to the MRTP Act to facilitate investments.

(ii) Liberalisation of Export-Import Policy by allowing free access to imported capital goods, value based advanced licensing scheme etc.

(iii) Rationalisation of fiscal policy especially in the areas of duty structure, corporate taxation etc.

(iv) Introduction of the software Technology Park Scheme which seeks to provide infrastructural facilities for small software houses keen to enter the export market. The scheme also gives the flexibility to set up private STPs which can be done by bigger companies taking advantage of the duty free facilities offered for import of CG etc.

(v) Introduction of Electronics Hardware Technology Park Scheme (EHTP) disigned to meet the specific requirements of a globally oriented electronics sector. This would provide a flexible policy environment that would greatly facilitate doing business and making preferential access to the vast Indian domestic market as an incentive for export production in the country.

(vi) Encouraging foreign collaboration for investment and technology. This includes automatic approval for foreign direct investment upto 51% foreign equity in high priority industries and automatic permission for foreign technology agreements in such industries with certain ceiling on payments.

(vii) Implementation of a quality infrastructure programme called the Standardization. Testing & Quality Certification (STQC) Programme to promote the quality of Indian electronic goods.

(viii) Participation in and sponsoring of seminars, exhibitions, business delegation etc. abroad and in India.

(ix) Establishment of a Software Services Support and Education Centre to improve the quality of Indian Software.

Drinking Water Problem.

4337. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attenttion of the Government has been drawn towards the troubles of common people of Trans-Yamuna colonies including Kundan Nagar (which is a Harijan colony) due to shortage of drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the steps proposed to be taken to solve the drinking water problem;

(c) whether the people have taken illegal water connections as a result of which the actual consumer has to face the scarcity of water;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct an enquiry into it; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b). There is no shortage of drinking water in Trans Yamuna area including Kundan Nagar, which is an unauthorised colony not a Harijan Basti.

(c) to (e). Cases of illegal connection are being dealt with as per rules.

[English]

Revision of Pay Scale

4338. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Board of Arbitration have given final decision regarding revision of pay scale of UDCs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government ot expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTERY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(c) Further action in the matter will be taken on receipt of the Award of the Board.

Oil Refineries

4339. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the places indentified in Orissa for the establishment of Oil refineries;

(b) the installed capacity of each those refinery;

(c) the steps taken to establish these oil refineries; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d). IOC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) on 16.9.1995 for setting up a 6 MMTPA refinery in Eastern India as a joint-venture project. The exact location of the refinery and the other details will be decided based on Detailed Feasibility Report. Government has already accorded stage-I clearance for the project. DFR is under examination by IOC.

An LOI has been issued to M/s. Ashok Leyland to set up and operate an Oil Refinery of 2 MMTPA capacity in Orissa to produce primarily range of lubricating oil base stocks (LOBS).

LOI has also been issued on 5.6.96 to M/s. Nippon Denro for setting up of a 9 MMTPA capacity refinery at Orissa.

[Translation]

Liquor Policy

4340. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether molasses is being used instead of Mahua for preparing liquor;

(b) whether the liquor prepared by using molasses is injurious to health;

(c) the parioty in the liquor policy of other States of the country alongwith Madhya Pradesh;

(d) whether there is liquor policy existing at national level; and

(e) if not, the views of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMARY RAY) :

(a) Molasses is being used as a raw material for manufacture of potable alcohol. However, this is not being done as a replacement for mahua flowers as raw material.

(b) It is commonly accepted that consumption of molasses based liquor is no more or no less injurious to health than non-molasses based liquor.

(c) to (e). The manufacture of alcoholic beverages is under compulsory licensing of the Government of India. However, every State has its own policy regarding other aspects, including sale and transport of alcoholic beverages.

[English]

UNDP Report

4341. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to this year Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme millions of people in 89 countries are today worse off economically than they were a decade ago;

(b) if so, whether according to the report India's position on the whole is not encouraging;